

FRINGE BENEFITS

From sexy samba and surreal circus to fiery flamenco and comic tapping, **Marianka Swain** previews dance highlights at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the International Festival

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

CIRCA: BEYOND

Underbelly, Bristo Square;
July 30 – August 25, 7pm, 1hr
The acclaimed modern circus ensemble invites you to step into a surreal world, where blindfolds and rabbit heads meet Rubik's Cubes and vaudeville.

SUSHI TAP SHOW

C venues – C
July 30 – August 25, 4.45pm, 1hr
Tokyo-based comic trio Tap Dol combine tapping, juggling and zany music hall shtick in a wonderfully eccentric performance.

BACK OF THE BUS

Assembly point: George Square Gardens; August 4–21, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 8pm, 1hr
Take a magical mystery tour with New Zealand's Java Dance Company (pictured below), as they propel themselves down aisles and hang from the roof on a bus ride through the streets of Edinburgh.

MISSING

Dance Base;
August 1–24, 6pm, 50min
Irish double-Fringe First-winning

CoisCéim Dance Theatre returns with a poignant contemporary piece by David Bolger that explores the loss of a loved one.

BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL SHOWCASE

Venue 150 at EICC;
August 13–17, 2pm, 1hr 30
The sixth annual festival-within-a-festival presents bite-sized work from eight exciting American dance companies, allowing you to sample a range of styles.

TAKBOOM

Spotlites at the Merchants' Hall;
August 15–19, 11.10pm, 55min
This emerging Parisian company combines Lecoq movement, acrobatics, puppetry and spontaneous musicality in their debut piece.

ALBA FLAMENCA



Alba Flamenca/La Sal; August 1–24, 4pm, 7.30pm, 1hr 10
Top flamenco musicians and dancers bring a taste of Spain to this dedicated venue, which includes a tapas bar. Also check out fusion show *India Flamenco*, a tale of travelling gypsies, Wednesdays 6pm.

THIS IS BRASIL: THE SHOW

Pleasance Courtyard;

July 30 – August 25, 8pm, 1hr
A scorching *carnaval* from 20 outstanding Brazilian artists, featuring samba, zouk lambada, favela funk and acrobatics.

FEET DON'T FAIL ME NOW

Assembly Hall; July 31 – August 25, 7.45pm, 1hr
American hoofers Rhythmic Circus (pictured opposite) burst on to the scene with their tap shoes, funky costumes and swinging brass band. Musical genre-hopping and energetic percussive movement.

BLACK GRACE

Assembly Roxy; July 30 – August 22, 7.20pm, 1hr
Acclaimed choreographer Neil leremia draws on his Samoan and New Zealand roots to create innovative, highly physical works for his powerful company.

BOTTLE MAIL FROM OKINAWA

Spotlights at the Merchants' Hall;
August 9–24, 4.05pm, 50min
Japan's Ship of the Ryukyu share a traditional song and dance

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

INALA

Edinburgh Playhouse; August 10–12, 8pm, 1hr 35
In this exciting fusion, Mark Baldwin unites Zulu traditions with western song and dance. Performers include the Royal Ballet, Rambert and choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

BAL MODERNE

The Hub; August 15–17, 2.30pm, 2hr

Photograph © Java Dance Company

show, including live sanshin and flute music, fan and court dances.

RANDOM ACTS

Gryphon at WestEnd;
August 4–8, 8.45pm, 1hr
Houston City Dance Company's dynamic show fuses ballet, jazz and modern dance.

ABSOLUTELY LEGLESS

Acoustic Music Centre at St Bride's; August 24, 2.30pm, 6pm, 1hr 15
High-energy live band and stirring traditional dance from a company of fleet-footed Irish dancers.

HAKA

Assembly Hall; July 31 – August 23, 2pm, 50min
Twenty-five of New Zealand's finest Kapa Haka performers create an electrifying display of the fierce Maori warrior dance.

OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION

Greenside at Nicolson Square;
August 1–23, 6.25pm, 1hr
MurleyDance performs three

An immersive experience of wartime dance culture, with archive films, live music, participatory dance specialists, and the chance to dress in period clothes and get involved.

GNOSIS

King's Theatre; August 19–21, 8pm, 1hr 35
Akram Khan Company joins forces with Taiwan's Fang-Yi Sheu and dancers from around the world in an Indian Kathak/contemporary show inspired by Hindu epic the *Mahabharata*.

Photograph © Rhythmic Circus

FRINGE BENEFITS

GET DANCING

BEY DANCE WORKSHOP

Gilded Balloon; August 1–24, 10am, 2hr
Break out your inner Beyoncé with this fierce, booty-shaking class – beginner friendly. Drop in for one session, or do all four to learn a full routine and perform in a flashmob.

TAP INTO HEALTH: MOVIN' WITH MELVIN

C venues – C; August 9–23, 10.50am, 1hr

A masterclass with Movin' Melvin Brown, whose talents include tap, juke dancing, clogging, jazz and swing. His show is at the same venue, July 31–August 24, 6:05pm.

CEILIDHS

Lauriston Hall; August 1–23, 9pm, 2hr
Ken Gourlay calls the steps at these fun ceilidh socials, with live music provided by Flaming Heather, HLL, Scott Leslie and Willie Fraser.

contemporary ballet pieces examining our relationships with objects, from iPods to thrones, and the bond between two people who will never meet.



McClennan, blending traditional and original music and movement.

THE SAKE

New Town Theatre;
August 2–24, 8.30pm, 1hr

Japanese dance, aerial acrobatics, comic storytelling and cutting-edge multimedia are combined to create a striking visionary world.

FOOTPRINTS

Lauriston Halls; August 11–16, 12.30pm, 45min
High Heart Dance Company joins forces with Scots singer Emily Smith and musician Jamie

I AM

Edinburgh Playhouse;
August 16–17, 8pm, 1hr 50
New Zealand's Lemi Ponifasio explores the legacy of World War I through poetic movement and striking imagery.

SWEET MAMBO

Edinburgh Playhouse; August 23–25, 7.30pm, 2hr 30
Tanztheater Wuppertal explores relationships between men and women, from seduction to abandonment, in the inimitable style of Pina Bausch.

A SIMPLE SPACE

Underbelly, Bristo Square
July 31 – August 25, 4.20pm, 1hr
Talented Australian acrobats Gravity & Other Myths push themselves to their physical limits in an awe-inspiring modern circus show.

BRAZOUKA

Assembly Hall; July 31 – August 25, 5.30pm, 1hr 15
For full details of this new dance drama, see page 18. ●

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